

are easily understood without the provision of a flow chart and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this requirement of additional figures of drawing.

All of the apparatus claims of this application have been cancelled, so any issue about whether the features of the apparatus claims are shown in the drawings is no moot.

The claims remaining are all method claims. The claims are directed at various methods that involve the player making an initial wager to be eligible for the bingo game and a second wager to be eligible for the progressive jackpot. A person having ordinary skill in the art would certainly understand the portion of the method relating to the initial wager for the bingo game.

With regard to the progressive jackpot portion of the method, it is also suggested that a person of ordinary skill in the art would easily understand the steps of designating a portion of the second wager to a progressive jackpot pool, establishing predetermined combinations as winning combinations for the progressive jackpot and awarding the player when he achieves the predetermined winning combination. As the Examiner notes in the Final Rejection, progressive type betting is known and it is submitted that the depiction in flow chart format of the method set out in the claims present in this application is not necessary to understand the subject matter sought to be patented. For these reasons, the Examiner is requested to withdraw his requirement that flow charts be added to the

drawings.

With regard to the rejection of the claims on the merits, Applicant has cancelled all of the claims rejected by the Examiner in the Final Rejection. Previous Claim 11, indicated by the Examiner as allowable, has been rewritten in independent form as Amended Claim 10 incorporating into a single independent claim all of the limitations of Previous Claim 10 and Previous Claim 11. Applicant requests that the amendment to Claim 10 be entered to make this claim allowable.

Claims 12 and 13 have been allowed by the Examiner. Applicant has amended each of these claims to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "five-by-five bingo game". It is submitted that no new issues are raised by this amendment to Claims 12 and 13, but rather simply clarifies the invention set out in these claims. Applicant requests that the amendments to Claims 12 and 13 be entered.

New Claims 15, 16 and 17 have been submitted to provide Applicant with the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled for the invention set out in this application. These claims are modeled after allowed Claims 12, 13 and 14. The new Claims 15, 16 and 17 have been broadened by the elimination of the recitation to a five-by-five bingo game in favor of a more generic recitation of merely a bingo game.

As the Examiner noted in his comments in the last Office Action regarding the allowability of Claims 12-14, the prior art does teach the additional step of the player making a second

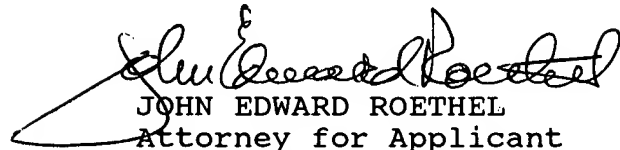
wager to be eligible for a progressive jackpot used on a bingo game. The allowance was certainly not premised on the fact that the bingo game being played is a traditional five-by-five matrix bingo game, since this is the conventional bingo format. It is suggested that no new issues are raised nor is further searching required for the Examiner to consider and allow new Claims 15-17 because the essential features of Claims 12-14 that resulted in the allowance of these claims are still present in new Claims 15-17.

Applicant requests the entry of new Claims 15-17 in order to properly protect Applicant's invention should a competitor attempt to use the teachings of Applicant's invention to add a progressive jackpot to another form of bingo besides the five-by-five traditional format. These claims could not have been presented earlier because there was no indication of allowable subject matter after the first Office Action from the Examiner. It was only upon receipt of the latest Office Action that the Applicant was advised on what subject matter was allowable and the Applicant requests entry of the amendment presented herein so that Claims 15-17 may be considered and found allowable.

Applicant submits that all of the claims remaining in this application are allowable over the prior art of record. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider his Final Rejection of the claims and find that this application is now in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this

application, the Examiner is requested to call undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JOHN EDWARD ROETHEL  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 28,372

3770 Howard Hughes Parkway  
Suite 135  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109  
Phone: (702) 733-7950